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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA) (LOS ANGELES COUNTY)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Los Angeles County dropped over the month to 6.1 percent in February 2004 from a revised 6.4 percent in January 2004 and was below the rate of 6.8 percent one year ago. Civilian employment fell by 9,000 to 4,481,000 in February 2004, while unemployment decreased by 13,000 to 293,000 over the month. The civilian labor force declined by 22,000 over the month to 4,774,000 in February 2004. (All of the above figures are seasonally adjusted.) The unadjusted unemployment rate for the county was 6.1 percent in February 2004.

The California seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in February 2004, 6.2 percent in January 2004, and 6.8 percent a year ago in February 2003. The comparable estimates for the nation were 5.6 percent in February 2004, 5.6 percent in January 2004, and 5.9 percent a year ago.

Los Angeles County total nonfarm wage and salary employment expanded by 21,400 jobs between January and February 2004 to reach 3,979,400 jobs. Farm employment also grew, adding 500 jobs. Within nonfarm, eight industries saw increases, while two contracted and one was unchanged. Educational and health services experienced the largest month-over employment gain, adding 7,300 jobs, mostly in colleges, universities and professional schools (up 6,000 jobs), where faculty is returning for spring classes. Leisure and hospitality gained 4,600 jobs, divided between: arts, entertainment and recreation (up 3,200 jobs); and accommodation and food services (up 1,400 jobs). Professional and business services saw the third largest expansion, augmenting their payrolls by 4,500 jobs. Other industries showing overthe-month growth were: government (up by 3,400 jobs); manufacturing (up 3,100 jobs); information (up 2,700 jobs); other services (up 600 jobs); and financial activities (up 500 jobs). Trade, transportation and utilities experienced the largest monthly decline, losing 4,100 jobs. Consistent with seasonal trends, retail trade (down 4,400) was responsible for the majority of this decrease. Construction declined by 1,200 jobs. Natural resources and mining remained stable at 3,600 jobs.

Between February 2003 and February 2004, total nonfarm employment fell by 3,000 jobs, or 0.1 percent. Farm employment increased by 400 jobs. Manufacturing posted the largest year-over nonfarm decline by losing 24,600 jobs, evenly distributed between durable and nondurable goods (both down 12,300 jobs). The largest drop within durable goods was in transportation equipment (down 5,000 jobs), and for nondurable goods was in apparel manufacturing (down 5,400 jobs). Government experienced the second largest employment reduction, contracting by 12,600 jobs. Local government education (down 8,500 jobs) accounts for the majority of this change. Driven by continued losses in telecommunications (down 3,100 jobs), information dropped 4,100 jobs. Other industries to experience over-the-year declines were: other services (down 1,400 jobs); construction (down 800 jobs); natural resources and mining (down 300 jobs); and trade, transportation and utilities (down 200 jobs). Leisure and hospitality had the largest employment gain, adding 16,200 jobs, mostly in food services and drinking places (up 9,300 jobs). Professional and business services grew by 10,700 jobs. The largest year-over change within professional and business services was in administrative and support services (up 10,700 jobs). Educational and health services gained 9,300 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (up 8,500 jobs). Financial activities augmented payrolls by 4,800 jobs.

Los Angeles-Long Beach MSA

Los Angeles County Industry Employment & Labor Force March 2003 Benchmark

Dec 03 Jan 04 Feb 04 Percent Change

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

Civilian Labor Force (1)		Feb 03	Dec 03	Jan 04	Feb 04	Percent	Ŭ
Civillan Lemployment		. =	. =				
Civillan Unemployment Rate							
Civilian Unemployment Rate (CA Unemployment Rate (CA Unemployment Rate)							
Total All Industries (2)	· ·		· ·		· ·	-7.1%	-10.7%
Total, All Industries (2) 3,989,900 4,025,300 3,985,400 3,987,300 0,6% -0,1%							
Total All Industries (2)							
Total Nonfarm	(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	6.4%	5.4%	6.3%	6.0%		
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Feb 03

Los Angeles-Long Beach MSA Los Angeles County Industry Employment & Labor Force

March 2003 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality						
	Feb 03	Dec 03	Jan 04	Feb 04	Percent	-
			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing	6,800	5,400	5,400	5,400	0.0%	-20.6%
Paint, Coating, and Adhesive M	3,200	3,200	3,400	3,400	0.0%	6.3%
Residual-Other Chemical Products and Prepa	13,500	13,400	13,300	13,500	1.5%	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	21,400	19,900	20,000	19,900	-0.5%	-7.0%
Service Providing	3,336,300	3,393,300	3,339,500	3,359,000	0.6%	0.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	770,600	799,100	774,500	770,400	-0.5%	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	214,500	214,600	212,700	213,400	0.3%	-0.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	112,600	110,900	109,400	109,800	0.4%	-2.5%
Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Mercha	14,300	14,100	13,900	14,000	0.7%	-2.1%
Professional and Commercial Equipment Merc	20,700	20,100	19,900	19,900	0.0%	-3.9%
Electrical and Electronic Goods Merchant Who	14,000	14,000	13,900	13,900	0.0%	-0.7%
Machinery, Equipment and Supplies Merchant	15,500	15,000	14,900	14,900	0.0%	-3.9%
Miscellaneous Durable Goods Merchant Whol	20,500	20,000	19,600	19,700	0.5%	-3.9%
Residual-Furniture and Home Furnishing Merd	27,600	27,700	27,200	27,400	0.7%	-0.7%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	82,100	82,200	81,700	81,900	0.2%	-0.2%
Apparel, Piece Gds & Notions Merch whole	18,900	18,100	18,100	18,100	0.0%	-4.2%
Grocery & Related Products Merchant whole	27,700	28,400	28,000	27,800	-0.7%	0.4%
Residual-Paper and Paper Products Merchant	20,100	19,600	19,600	19,800	1.0%	-1.5%
Misc Nondurable Merchant Wholesalers	15,400	16,100	16,000	16,200	1.3%	5.2%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and	19,800	21,500	21,600	21,700	0.5%	9.6%
Retail Trade	392,200	421,900	399,800	395,400	-1.1%	0.8%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealer	50,300	51,200	50,800	51,000	0.4%	1.4%
Automobile Dealers	35,800	36,900	36,700	36,900	0.5%	3.1%
Other Motor Vehicle Dealers	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0%	4.5%
Automotive Parts, Accessories and Tire Stores	12,300	12,000	11,800	11,800	0.0%	-4.1%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	15,700	17,200	16,700	16,700	0.0%	6.4%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	19,900	22,500	21,700	21,300	-1.8%	7.0%
Building Material and Garden Equipment Stores	23,400	24,400	23,800	23,900	0.4%	2.1%
Food and Beverage Stores	81,900	83,100	81,400	81,900	0.6%	0.0%
Grocery Stores	67,200	67,700	67,200	67,600	0.6%	0.6%
Residual-Specialty Food Stores	14,700	15,400	14,200	14,300	0.7%	-2.7%
Health and Personal Care Stores	27,600	29,800	29,200	29,200	0.0%	5.8%
Gasoline Stations	11,000	11,200	11,000	11,000	0.0%	0.0%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	47,500	53,100	48,600	47,000	-3.3%	-1.1%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book and Music Stores	23,200	25,000	22,400	22,100	-1.3%	-4.7%
Sporting Goods, Hobby and Musical Instrume	13,700	15,000	13,000	12,800	-1.5%	-6.6%
Book, Periodical and Music Stores	9,500	10,000	9,400	9,300	-1.1%	-2.1%
General Merchandise Stores	56,700	68,900	60,900	57,800	-5.1%	1.9%
Department Stores	39,000	48,200	42,200	39,200	-7.1%	0.5%
Other General Merchandise Stores	17,700	20,700	18,700	18,600	-0.5%	5.1%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	27,500	27,700	26,300	26,400	0.4%	-4.0%
Nonstore Retailers	7,500	7,800	7,000	7,100	1.4%	-5.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	163,900	162,600	162,000	161,600	-0.2%	-1.4%
Utilities	12,000	12,100	12,100	12,200	0.8%	1.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	151,900	150,500	149,900	149,400	-0.3%	-1.6%
Air Transportation	25,000	23,400	23,300	23,400	0.4%	-6.4%
Residual-Rail Transportation	5,900	5,700	5,900	5,900	0.4%	0.0%
Truck Transportation	29,700	30,700	30,000	29,900	-0.3%	0.7%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	11,200	11,300	11,100	11,200	0.9%	0.7 %
Support Activities for Transportation	41,200	40,500	41,200		-1.9%	-1.9%
Couriers and Messengers	22,400	22,300	22,000	40,400 22,200	0.9%	-1.9% -0.9%
	16,500	16,600			0.9%	-0.9% -0.6%
Warehousing and Storage			16,400	16,400		
Information	205,100	196,000	198,300	201,000	1.4%	-2.0%
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	20,300	20,100	20,100	20,100	0.0%	-1.0%
Newspaper, Periodical, Book and Directory Put	14,900	14,900	14,900	15,000	0.7%	0.7%
Software Publishers	5,400	5,200	5,200	5,100	-1.9%	-5.6%

Los Angeles-Long Beach MSA Los Angeles County Industry Employment & Labor Force

March 2003 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

Motion Picture and Sound Recording	Data Not Adjusted for Ocasoriality	F-1- 00	D 00	Jan. 0.4	E-1- 04	D	01
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	waste Treatment and Disposal	2,900	2,600	2,600	2,600	0.0%	-10.3%

Los Angeles-Long Beach MSA Los Angeles County Industry Employment & Labor Force

March 2003 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality						
	Feb 03	Dec 03	Jan 04	Feb 04	Percent	Change
			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Residual-Waste Collection and Remediation S	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,500	0.0%	3.8%
Educational and Health Services	457,700	470,500	459,700	467,000	1.6%	2.0%
Educational Services	99,200	102,800	93,200	100,000	7.3%	0.8%
Elementary and Secondary Schools	26,700	28,200	27,800	28,400	2.2%	6.4%
Junior Colleges	7,000	7,200	7,000	7,000	0.0%	0.0%
Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools		49,500	40,500	46,500	14.8%	-2.5%
Residual- Business, Technical Schools and Sup		17,900	17,900	18,100	1.1%	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	358,500	367,700	366,500	367,000	0.1%	2.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	143,200	148,900	148,000	148,300	0.2%	3.6%
Offices of Physicians	63,400	65,800	65,500	65,600	0.2%	3.5%
Offices of Dentists	27,000	27,800	27,900	28,100	0.7%	4.1%
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	14,000	14,300	14,200	14,200	0.0%	1.4%
Outpatient Care Centers	13,600	14,300	14,200	14,200	0.0%	3.7%
		26,700	26,300	26,300	0.0%	4.4%
Residual-Other Ambulatory Health Care Ser	101,000	104,300	104,100	104,000	-0.1%	3.0%
Hospitals						
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	64,000	64,900	64,600	64,600	0.0%	0.9%
Nursing Care Facilities	31,900	31,800	31,600	31,400	-0.6%	-1.6%
Residential Mental Retardation, Mental and	17,500	18,200	18,300	18,400	0.5%	5.1%
Residual-Other Residential Care Facilities	14,600	14,900	14,700	14,800	0.7%	1.4%
Social Assistance	50,300	49,600	49,800	50,100	0.6%	-0.4%
Individual and Family Services	19,600	19,900	20,000	20,100	0.5%	2.6%
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	8,400	8,000	8,000	8,000	0.0%	-4.8%
Child Day Care Services	18,000	17,400	17,500	17,700	1.1%	-1.7%
Community Food & Housing, & Emergency	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	0.0%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	352,200	367,000	363,800	368,400	1.3%	4.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	63,700	68,500	67,800	71,000	4.7%	11.5%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports	28,200	31,100	30,600	33,000	7.8%	17.0%
Spectator Sports	5,000	4,700	5,200	5,300	1.9%	6.0%
Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers	12,100	13,300	11,900	13,700	15.1%	13.2%
Residual-Performing Arts Companies	11,100	13,100	13,500	14,000	3.7%	26.1%
Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institut		4,000	4,000	4,100	2.5%	5.1%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	31,600	33,400	33,200	33,900	2.1%	7.3%
Gambling Industries	7,100	7,400	7,700	7,700	0.0%	8.5%
Other Amusement and Recreation	21,400	22,200	21,500	22,000	2.3%	2.8%
Amusement Parks and Arcades	3,100	3,800	4,000	4,200	5.0%	35.5%
Accommodation and Food Service	288,500	298,500	296,000	297,400	0.5%	3.1%
Accommodation	36,900	37,500	36,700	36,500	-0.5%	-1.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	251,600	261,000	259,300	260,900	0.6%	3.7%
Full-Service Restaurants	118,300	120,600	121,400	122,000	0.5%	3.1%
Limited-Service Eating Places	110,900	116,900	114,800	115,400	0.5%	4.1%
Special Food Services	15,500	16,600	15,900	16,300	2.5%	5.2%
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages)	6,900	6,900	7,200	7,200	0.0%	4.3%
Other Services	145,000	145,500	143,000	143,600	0.0%	-1.0%
Repair and Maintenance	40,800	39,500	39,700	39,700	0.0%	-2.7%
Personal and Laundry Services	46,800	48,000	46,900	46,800	-0.2%	0.0%
Residual-Personal Care Services	30,400	31,100	30,300	30,200	-0.3%	-0.7%
Other Personal Services	16,400	16,900	16,600	16,600	0.0%	1.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and	57,400	58,000	56,400	57,100	1.2%	-0.5%
Government	608,700	595,300	592,700	596,100	0.6%	-2.1%
Federal Government	56,100	55,400	55,000	54,800	-0.4%	-2.3%
Department of Defense	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,400	0.0%	-2.9%
Other Federal Government	52,600	52,000	51,600	51,400	-0.4%	-2.3%
State and Local Government	552,600	539,900	537,700	541,300	0.7%	-2.0%
State Government	81,400	80,600	80,200	80,700	0.6%	-0.9%
State Government Education	49,300	49,300	49,000	49,500	1.0%	0.4%
Other State Government	32,100	31,300	31,200	31,200	0.0%	-2.8%
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Los Angeles-Long Beach MSA Los Angeles County

Industry Employment & Labor Force March 2003 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Feb 03	Dec 03	Jan 04	Feb 04	Percent (Change
			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Local Government	471,200	459,300	457,500	460,600	0.7%	-2.2%
Local Government Education	265,100	255,400	253,600	256,600	1.2%	-3.2%
County	92,500	91,000	91,200	90,900	-0.3%	-1.7%
City	92,000	90,800	91,000	91,400	0.4%	-0.7%
Other Local Government	21,600	22,100	21,700	21,700	0.0%	0.5%

Note 1: Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Note 2: Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California State Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Bradley Kemp-213/744-2569 or Ericka Saenz-562/988-2824

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet at http://www.calmis.ca.gov. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

Editor's Note: In February 2003, the Employment Development Department began releasing official estimates of employment by industry using the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) rather than the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system. As a result, some industry titles will be different than those published in past months. In addition, we have adjusted the employment estimates to include updates resulting from our annual benchmark of employment data. As a result, some of the industry titles and numbers may have undergone significant change.

Please contact the Labor Market Consultant listed above if you have any questions.

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